

Prime Minister Manning's statement will address "The Role of Trinidad and Tobago in Shaping Regional and Global Affairs."

Trinidad and Tobago, a liberal democracy located in the southern Caribbean, is a political leader in the region. The country is a member of the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM)—a regional organization aimed at the ultimate integration of its member economies—and also the Seat of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ)—the recently established regional judicial tribunal.

"Medgar Evers College welcomes Prime Minister Manning in the spirit of ongoing international exchange. His visit is yet another indication that our work here at Medgar is receiving worldwide recognition," says Dr. Edison O. Jackson, President of Medgar Evers College.

The College has been a venue of choice for several government dignitaries speaking on issues of global import such as Director General of US Commercial Services Israel Hernandez, who spoke on the Bush Administration's Economic and Trade Initiatives.

#### ABOUT PRIME MINISTER MANNING

The Honorable Patrick Manning was elected to his third term of office as the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago on October 7, 2002. Born in San Fernando in 1946, Mr. Manning entered politics in 1971, at the tender age of 24, emerging victorious in the general elections as the People's National Movement candidate for the Constituency of San Fernando East.

Under two Prime Ministers, young Representative Manning served as Parliamentary Secretary in Ministries ranging from Works and Transport, Industry and Commerce, to Petroleum and Mines. He became a full-fledged Minister in 1981 holding the Industry and Commerce, and Information portfolios, then Energy and National Resources. In 1986, he became the Leader of the Opposition and within two months was elected to the post of Political Leader of the PNM.

In 1991 Mr. Manning was elected Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago. Four years later he returned to opposition after a loss in the general election of 1995. In 2001, after a deadlock in the House of Representatives, Mr. Manning was appointed Prime Minister by President Arthur N.R. Robinson. A general election was then held on October 7, 2002 and Mr. Manning again emerged victorious. He is currently the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance.

Prime Minister Manning is well-respected in the international community for his vision as a new-style Caribbean leader dedicated to propelling his nation to developed country status by 2020, while simultaneously contributing to the development of fellow regional states.

His accolades include the Guyana Institute for Democracy "Democracy Prize" for his outstanding work in upholding the principles of democracy in the Caribbean region (December 2003) and the Caribbean—Central American Action's "Star of the Caribbean Award," for his unwavering support of Caribbean neighbors in their time of distress (December 2004).

Mr. Manning attained his primary and secondary education in South Trinidad followed by his B.Sc. Degree (Special Honors) in Geology at the University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica.

He is married to the Honorable Senator Hazel Manning, current Minister of Education, and they have two sons—Brian and David.

#### RAPE OF A NATION

##### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 16, 2007*

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, Congo is facing a rape epidemic. The sexual violence in Congo is the worst in the world. Congolese women are raped, butchered by bayonets, and assaulted with chunks of wood. These brutal attacks leave their reproductive and digestive systems beyond repair.

The election last year has not ended the violence and instability in Congo. The government is inept. The justice system and military barely function. Large parts of Congo remain authority-free, leaving civilians at the mercy of armed militiamen, the Rastas. The Rastas are known for burning babies, kidnapping and raping women, and butchering anyone along their path. Rastas are former Hutus, who escaped into Congo after exterminating 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus during Rwanda's genocide. Rastas seek to destroy the Congolese women.

According to the U.N., 27,000 women in the South Kivu Province alone reported sexual assaults in 2006. That's only a fraction of the number of raped women across Congo. This is especially disturbing because the largest U.N. peacekeeping force in the world, over 17,000 troops, is in Congo.

Rape is a common weapon of war, but the sexual assaults in Congo are now a social phenomenon. Abuse of women, even by their husbands, is now considered "normal."

Congolese women face an extraordinary struggle. Their husbands leave them after they are raped for fear of "disease." Congo does not have enough resources to treat sexual assault victims. The lack of hospital beds forces rape victims to return to their villages before they have fully recovered.

Rape victims are often left with colostomy bags, damaged internal organs, pregnant or unable to bear children, and afraid of being attacked again.

I founded the Congressional Victim's Rights Caucus to provide a voice for victims and to advocate on their behalf. As the co-chair of the caucus, I hope we continue to raise awareness of the devastating effects of domestic violence and other crimes on victims across the world.

Congolese women are victims of sadistic sexual assaults, irreversible internal damage, and a government that has failed to protect them. And that's just the way it is.

#### TRIBUTE TO ALYSSA RANDALL

##### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 16, 2007*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alyssa Randall of State Center, Iowa, as the recipient of the Golden Apple Award for her commitment and enthusiasm as an educator.

Alyssa teaches the Trojan Tots program at West Marshall Elementary School, which includes two separate programs for 3 and 4-year-olds. At an early age, Alyssa acquired a

strong interest in utilizing her talent for working with young children. As she was growing up Alyssa's own teachers played a crucial role in this interest. I am certain that Alyssa's passion for the teaching profession is, and will continue to be, a significant influence on a number of her own students as well.

The Golden Apple Award is a special recognition given to one exceptional teacher each month during the school year by WHO-TV 13 in Des Moines, Iowa and by Allied Insurance. Alyssa's own students, Ryan and Kody Carver, nominated her for this recognition by writing letters describing why she is their favorite teacher.

I consider it a great honor to represent this dedicated teacher Alyssa Randall in the United States Congress. And, I also know that my colleagues in Congress will join me in expressing my gratitude to Alyssa and to all of our Nation's educators for their hard work and dedication to our children and grandchildren.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 16, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I would like to state for the record my position on the following votes I missed due to flooding in my county.

On Monday, October 15, 2007, I was tending to personal matters and thus missed roll-call votes Nos. 961, 962, and 963. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on all votes.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE 32ND ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE PAN-MESSINIAN FEDERATION OF USA AND CANADA

##### HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 16, 2007*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker, whereas, the people of the Pan-Messianian Federation of USA and Canada celebrate the 32nd National Convention with great pride; and

Whereas, the 180th Anniversary will be celebrated, recognizing the Navy of Battle of Navarino; and

Whereas, the battle which took place on October 20, 1827 ensured Greece's independence

Whereas, they are known for fostering fraternal bonds, renewing acquaintances and annually gathering to conduct official business; and

Whereas, Pan-Messianian Federation of USA and Canada is recognized for their hard work to preserve cultural traditions, educational scholarships, and charities;

Be it resolved that along with friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend the Pan-Messianian Federation of USA and Canada for your unwavering commitment, recognizing that all great achievements are a result of dedication. With great appreciation and respect, I wish you continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 2007 CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS FOUNDATION ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE—THE IRAQ WAR: THE COSTS, THE LESSONS, AND THE FUTURE

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 16, 2007*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the 2007 Congressional Black Caucus annual legislative conference, the speakers who presented at the forum I hosted on the war, and the reason I selected the war for an issue forum.

On September 28, 2007, I hosted a forum to address issues related to the costs, lessons and future of the Iraq war. I was honored to have as my speakers: Dr. Michael Eric Dyson, Reverend James Forbes, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, Eugene Robinson, Senator JIM WEBB, and General Anthony Zinni. I thank each of them for taking time to share their views on these important topics. I also wish to thank all of the people who attended the forum and those who watched it live via the Internet.

This is the fifth time in a row I held a forum on the war for the annual legislative conference. I decided once again to focus on the war for several reasons. There is a continuous need to explain to the American people why the war has not ceased yet. Americans are utterly confused about the politics as well as the rationale for continuing. Day in and day out Americans hear rhetoric versus solid withdraw plans and solutions. Americans are outraged and tired of the loss of life and other human tragedies associated with fighting the war. The human, financial, spiritual, and loss of reputation cost for our great country is immeasurable. I will continue to express my opposition to the war and work to bring it to an end.

The forum speakers were phenomenal and provided their ideas on how America got in the war and how America can get out. Specifically, Dr. Dyson, a professor at Georgetown University, eloquently encouraged the audience to speak out against the war and described the similarities in the Bush's administration response to hurricane Katrina to the handling of the Iraq war. Rev. James Forbes, Jr., founder of the Healing of the Nations Foundation, passionately spoke about the moral failures of the war. Congresswoman BARBARA LEE of California, discussed the difficulties she faced in opposing the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Eugene Robinson, a Washington Post columnist, discussed the administration's use of fear to build support for the war. Senator JIM WEBB of Virginia, emphasized the need for the U.S. to get out of Iraq and addressed issues related to fraud, waste, and abuse. General Zinni, a former commander of U.S. forces, explained the U.S. interests in Iraq and discussed his ideas on how the U.S. can get out of Iraq.

I would like to express heartfelt thanks to the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation chair, Congressman KENDRICK MEEK, and the Congressional Black Caucus chairwoman, CAROLYN CHEEKS KILPATRICK, for all their hard work to organize the annual legislative conference, which provides members of the Congressional Black Caucus an opportunity to highlight issues that impact the lives of Ameri-

cans. The information shared by the speakers was informative and provided another outlet for critics of the war to openly express their views.

CELEBRATING THE LAUNCH OF UNIVISION'S NEW SHOW, "AL PUNTO"

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 16, 2007*

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Univision on the launch of the new political news show "Al Punto."

"Al Punto" is paving the way to promote dialogue within the growing politically active and conscious Latino community. For 1 hour every Sunday, the show will bring together newsmakers, policymakers, business and political leaders, or entertainers to talk about the contemporary issues that affect the Latino community. The discussions will go beyond politics to include culture, science, and the arts. Furthermore, "Al Punto" will address current events in Latin America which impact the Latino community at home. This show will work to enlighten and empower the Latino community, as it will provide them with vital information on the current issues and news events that are impacting their everyday lives.

Again, I would like to recognize and congratulate Univision on the launch of "Al Punto" and for its contributions in educating the Latino community on political issues. I wish it continued success.

IN HONOR OF THE 2007  
SACRAMENTO RIVER CATS

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 16, 2007*

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of the 2007 Sacramento River Cats, the champions of the 2007 Pacific Coast League and winners of the Triple-A Championship. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in honoring this excellent achievement.

The River Cats remarkable playoff run began when they clinched the Pacific Coast League Southern Division by finishing the regular season with a record of 84–60. Despite falling behind two games to none against Salt Lake City in the first round of the playoffs. The River Cats came back to win the next three games. Using that positive momentum, the River Cats quickly beat the New Orleans Zephyrs in three games, winning the Pacific Coast League title for the third time in 5 years. The series final game was seen before a spirited and soldout crowd of 14,414 fans at Sacramento's Raley Field. During this impressive playoff run, the River Cats strung together seven straight playoff victories to end their season. The final victory came against the Richmond Braves in the second annual Bricktown Showdown. By defeating the International League Champion in the one game playoff, Sacramento was able to lay their claim as outright Triple-A champions.

This year's Sacramento River Cats team exhibited resilience in the face of adversity. De-

spite continually losing players to their parent affiliate, Major League Baseball's Oakland A's, to replenish their injured roster, the River Cats overcame more than 180 roster changes to win the championship. This meant that they accomplished the feat by receiving contributions from numerous and sometimes unlikely sources. No one epitomized this more than Nick Blasi, who spent much of the season with Class-A Stockton before becoming a playoff catalyst and the Pacific Coast League's Series MVP. Blasi hit a remarkable .457 in the playoffs.

Throughout this roster shuffle, every member of the 2007 River Cats demonstrated outstanding commitment to team play and hard work. Manager Tony DeFrancesco once again was a steady mentor for his young and ever changing roster. The River Cats featured some of baseball's brightest prospects who are destined to become the stars of tomorrow. The roster was anchored by contributions from recently promoted major leaguers: Daric Barton, Kurt Suzuki and Santiago Casilla, as well as prospects Jason Perry, J.J. Furmaniak and Brad Knox.

Under the leadership of President and CEO Art Savage, the River Cats players reaffirmed the front office's commitment to the people of Sacramento. On the Opening Day of the season, the River Cats unveiled the Mario Encarnacion Humanitarian Award which will annually honor a young student athlete who shows a commitment to his or her teammates and classmates. Furthermore, the River Cats Foundation has been providing support to Sacramento non-profits that assist with youth and family activities. The River Cats commitment to the community was reciprocated by the Sacramento fans, as the River Cats led the Pacific Coast League in attendance for an astounding 8th year in a row. 710,000 fans attended River Cats 71 home contests this year, and since beginning play at Raley Field in 2000, the River Cats have drawn over 6,000,000 fans.

Madam Speaker, now that the Sacramento River Cats have concluded their championship season, I am honored to pay tribute to the many hard working men and women of the River Cats organization who brought so much joy and pride to the people of Sacramento. Their successes are highly commendable. I ask all my colleagues to join me in celebrating the River Cats 2007 championship season.

IN RECOGNITION OF SOUTH TAMA  
COUNTY SCHOOL

**HON. LEONARD L. BOSWELL**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 16, 2007*

Mr. BOSWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor South Tama County High School, a school in my Congressional district, for their outstanding achievements in the "President's Challenge," a program sponsored by the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports.

South Tama County High School, in Tama, Iowa, was named one of two President's Challenge State Champion schools in Iowa for the 2006–2007 school year. The President's Challenge is designed to encourage students to find new and exciting ways to integrate fitness